



# SILVIJA

SANDRA RIDLEY

FIRST EDITION

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L. *Silva*. A wood, forest, woodland; in poetry, a piece composed, as it were, at a start, in a kind of Rapture; a title for a collection of pieces, esp. of poems.

*Sylvan, Silvana, Silvana*. A being of the woods; a deity or spirit of the woods; the Goddess of the woods; proper name of a divinity of fields and forests; an imaginary being supposed to haunt woods and groves.

For /  
Silvija Barons

That they with Joy might their own Requiem sing,  
And close their Eyes.

Thomas Ken, *Hymnarium, Book II*, 1721.

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IN PRAISE OF THE HEALER

Swallow the word.

Swallow the tongue.

Swallow down  
the fullness in the throat.

FARTHER / FATHER



Our dead call out our dead / *you show your filthy face*  
*You useless tit / you runt / you piece of shit / a shame*  
Unleashed by plain-talk / begging before a threshing  
From the old butcher / your leather strap / unbelted  
Crescent buckle for a skinning / hiding / each of us /  
Slickened with blood / held down in your hinterland  
Each barren mile unabating / *say mercy.*

What dwells in the dog's sleep / unbounded / darkness

The closer you are to the sun the more difficult you are

To see / penumbral / who runs from whom / until kept

Down / cowering / I do not move / you will not move.

You are no less dangerous than you were as you drag  
Your bones / field stones / we never once wept upon  
The firmament / eight children left with the lone wife  
Who would not carry the quiet / the final cardiac pall  
Paled thirty years / crescent moons / scars strapped  
Below the heart.

A finisher with a surly disposition / *better run boy*  
Run / before the shadow on an August day / flight  
Of the dove interrupted / who should feel shame /  
*Worthless idlers* / caught neurotic / we are taught  
You will not be tamed.

*Dirige / domine / deus meus / ignominious father / aberration*

Uttered solemn / all you missed is nothing / *noli me tangere /*

Don't touch me.